

## Watts Remy

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**From:** Aimee Levens <aimeelevens@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 21, 2019 7:41 AM  
**To:** SENR Exhibits; Rep Mitchell; sen.betsyjohnson@oregonlegislature.com  
**Cc:** ksdems@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Please ban neonicotinoids and Chlorpyrifos

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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As beekeepers, animal owners and gardeners here in Astoria, and as Oregonians, we urge you to vote to ban these toxic substances.

Here's the science:

Chlorpyrifos is a neurotoxic pesticide that is very harmful to children, pregnant women, farm workers, wildlife and beneficial insects.

Neonicotinoids (neonics) are a class of synthetic, neurotoxic pesticides widely used on a range of crops and ornamentals. They can persist in the environment many years after their application and are **highly toxic to bees, beneficial insects, fish and birds**. Not only do they indiscriminately kill all insects, they're now being found to be associated with congenital heart defects, neural tube defects, and autism.

Our personal plea: when these items are sprayed they don't stay within property boundaries. If a neighbor decides they want to have a green lawn in the dead of Summer, or think that the only way for them to raise crops is to poison everything, it doesn't only affect them but everybody around them because this stuff is in the air once it's sprayed. Our bees also don't stay in the property lines and can travel up to 2 miles looking for pollen to make honey, so if they encounter crops and flowers that have been sprayed, this means they die and we lose our hives. In addition to this, we keep egg-laying poultry who rely heavily on eating insects when they free range to supplement their diet. When they eat insects, or drink water from the shared stream that literally comes down through properties that use these poisons, not only are their lives endangered but they are unable to lay eggs and often their shells are not properly formed. We have already seen a difference in the health of our hives as well as the shells of our ducks eggs since moving from our small urban homestead out to our five acres here in Lewis and Clark where pesticide use is rampant.

We urge the Oregon Legislative Assembly to add these bee-killing pesticides to Oregon's list of Restricted Use Pesticides and BAN chlorpyrifos.

Other states have already done it and it's about time that Oregon legislature gets off its duff and starts acting like the environmental leaders we claim to be... rather than kowtowing to corporate AgChem interests. There's no reason this stuff needs to be bought by our neighbors and poisoning our bees, crops and groundwater...not to mention endangering our health and the health of our communities' children.

We urge you to step up and support these two bills.

Aimee and Dan Levens  
Astoria, Oregon